

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CORNELL EUGENE WILSON, JR.,

No. 2:20-cv-1294 KJN P

Petitioner,

v.

P. THOMPSON, Warden, FCI-Herlong,

Respondent.

ORDER AND FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

Petitioner is a federal prisoner, proceeding pro se, with a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Respondent moved to dismiss this action; petitioner filed an opposition. As set forth below, the undersigned recommends that the petition be dismissed.

I. Background

Following jury trial, petitioner was convicted on June 1, 2001, as charged: Count 1 - Conspiracy; Count 2 - Armed bank robbery; Count 3 - Using or Carrying a firearm; Count 4 Armed bank robbery; and Count 5 - Using or carrying a firearm. United States v. Wilson, No. CR-00-01025-NM (C.D. Cal.) (ECF No. 132).¹ On September 17, 2001, he was sentenced to federal prison for the following: count one - 60 months, count two - 262 months, count three - 84

¹ A court may take judicial notice of court records. See, e.g., Bennett v. Medtronic, Inc., 285 F.3d 801, 803 n.2 (9th Cir. 2002) (“[W]e may take notice of proceedings in other courts, both within and without the federal judicial system, if those proceedings have a direct relation to matters at issue”) (internal quotation omitted).

1 months, count four - 262 months, and count five - 300 months. Id. (ECF No. 174.) Counts one,
2 two, and four were concurrent terms (sum of 262 months), and counts three and five were
3 consecutive terms (sum of 384 months), for a total term of incarceration of 646 months (custody
4 of 262 plus 384 months). Id. The sentencing court also ordered petitioner to pay a \$100.00
5 special assessment for every conviction (five counts x \$100 = \$500.00) under 18 U.S.C. § 3013.
6 Wilson, No. CR-00-1025 NM (ECF No. 174) (“Defendant is ordered to pay a special assessment
7 of \$500.00.”). Petitioner was represented by counsel at trial and at sentencing.

8 On February 23, 2005, petitioner filed a pro se motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his
9 sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Wilson v. United States, No. CV 05-1367 NM (C.D. Cal.). On
10 June 23, 2005, the § 2255 motion was denied on the merits. Id. (ECF No. 7.) On June 25, 2014,
11 petitioner filed a second pro se § 2255 motion, which was dismissed as successive on October 14,
12 2014. Id. (ECF Nos. 13, 21.)

13 On November 20, 2015, petitioner filed a third pro se motion to vacate, set aside, or
14 correct sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Wilson v. United States, No. 2:15-cv-10025-JFW (C.D.
15 Cal.). The Ninth Circuit granted authorization to file a second or successive motion. Id. (ECF
16 No. 2.) The Central District Court granted the government’s motion to dismiss, and found that
17 petitioner’s conviction for robbery under California Penal Code § 211 is categorically a “crime of
18 violence,” and was properly used to determine that petitioner was a career offender. Id. (ECF No.
19 43.)

20 **II. The Instant Petition**

21 Petitioner alleges that the Central District of California wrongfully imposed special
22 assessments for two of his five counts of conviction, improperly ordering special assessments for
23 his three concurrent custodial sentences. He seeks resentencing, and \$200.00 reimbursement.
24 (ECF No. 1.)

25 **III. Jurisdiction**

26 Relief by way of a writ of habeas corpus extends to a prisoner in custody under the
27 authority of the United States who shows that his custody violates the Constitution, laws, or
28 treaties of the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). A federal prisoner who challenges the

1 validity or constitutionality of his underlying conviction must file a motion to vacate the sentence
2 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Stephens v. Herrera, 464 F.3d 895, 897 (9th Cir. 2006), cert.
3 denied, 549 U.S. 1313 (2007). In such cases, only the sentencing court has jurisdiction. Tripati
4 v. Henman, 843 F.2d 1160, 1163 (9th Cir. 1988); Hernandez v. Campbell, 204 F.3d 861, 865 (9th
5 Cir. 2000). Generally, a prisoner may not collaterally attack a federal conviction or sentence by
6 way of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Grady v. United
7 States, 929 F.2d 468, 470 (9th Cir. 1991); Tripati, 843 F.2d at 1162.

8 On the other hand, a federal prisoner challenging the manner, location, or conditions of
9 the execution of a sentence, as petitioner does here, must bring a petition for writ of habeas
10 corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Hernandez v. Campbell, 204 F.3d 861, 864-65 (9th Cir. 2000);
11 see also Harrison v. Ollison, 519 F.3d 952, 956 (9th Cir. 2008). Section 2241 is the vehicle for
12 challenging the BOP’s application or calculation of the sentence imposed by the district court,
13 including any credit it applies for presentence detention. Fraley v. U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 1 F.3d
14 924, 925 (9th Cir. 1993).

15 In any event, an exception to the general rule, known as the § 2255(e) “escape hatch,”
16 permits a federal prisoner to “file a habeas corpus petition pursuant to § 2241 to contest the
17 legality of a sentence where his remedy under § 2255 is ‘inadequate or ineffective to test the
18 legality of his detention.’” Hernandez, 204 F.3d at 864-65 (quoting § 2255(e)). “[I]f, and only if,
19 the remedy under § 2255 is ‘inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his detention’” may a
20 prisoner proceed under § 2241. Marrero v. Ives, 682 F.3d 1190, 1192 (9th Cir. 2012); see 28
21 U.S.C. § 2255(e). The Ninth Circuit has recognized that it is a very narrow exception. Ivy v.
22 Pontesso, 328 F.3d 1057, 1059 (9th Cir. 2003). The exception will not apply “merely because
23 section 2255’s gatekeeping provisions,” such as the statute of limitations or the limitation on
24 successive petitions, now prevent the courts from considering a § 2255 motion. Ivy, 328 F.3d at
25 1059 (ban on unauthorized or successive petitions does not per se make § 2255 inadequate or
26 ineffective); Aronson v. May, 85 S. Ct. 3, 5 (1964) (a court’s denial of a prior § 2255 motion is
27 insufficient to render § 2255 inadequate.).

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1 The Ninth Circuit has held that § 2255 provides an ‘inadequate and ineffective’ remedy
2 (and thus that the petitioner may proceed under Section 2241) when the petitioner: (1) makes a
3 claim of actual innocence; and (2) has never had an ‘unobstructed procedural shot’ at presenting
4 the claim. Harrison, 519 F.3d at 959; Stephens, 464 F.3d at 898. The burden is on the petitioner
5 to show that the remedy is inadequate or ineffective. Redfield v. United States, 315 F.2d 76, 83
6 (9th Cir. 1963). If a petitioner fails to meet this burden, then his § 2241 petition must be
7 dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Ivy, 328 F.3d at 1060.

8 Discussion

9 As argued by respondent, petitioner’s claim regarding the imposed special assessments
10 challenge the validity and constitutionality of his sentence, and therefore must be raised in the
11 Central District of California where he was convicted. Petitioner has not met his burden to show
12 he qualifies for the escape hatch clause of § 2255(e). Petitioner makes no claim or showing of
13 actual innocence. Harrison, 519 F.3d at 956 (actual innocence means factual innocence, not mere
14 legal insufficiency). Petitioner fails to demonstrate he was deprived of an opportunity to present
15 such claim to the sentencing court. Petitioner could have raised his claim at sentencing.

16 Petitioner argues that he could not include such claim in his initial § 2255 motion because
17 he was “denied effective assistance of counsel on collateral review.” (ECF No. 13 at 6.)
18 However, petitioner was not represented by counsel when he filed his initial § 2255. Wilson, No.
19 2:05-cv-011367-JFW. Moreover, his initial pro se § 2255 motion raised multiple claims, and
20 petitioner includes no facts demonstrating why he could not include the instant claim in the
21 § 2255 motion.²

22 Therefore, petitioner is not eligible for the “escape hatch” of § 2241, and the petition
23 should be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

24 IV. Transfer?

25 The undersigned considered whether this action should be transferred to the sentencing
26 court rather than dismissed. See 28 U.S.C. § 1631. Transfer is appropriate under Section 1631 if

27 ² Moreover, petitioner is not entitled to counsel on collateral review. See Pennsylvania v. Finely,
28 481 U.S. 551, 555 (1987) (no right to counsel on collateral review).

1 three conditions are satisfied: (1) the transferring court lacks jurisdiction; (2) the transferee court
2 could have exercised jurisdiction at the time the action was filed; and (3) the transfer is in the
3 interest of justice. See Cruz-Aguilera v. INS, 245 F.3d 1070, 1074 (9th Cir. 2001) (“The federal
4 transfer statute is applicable in habeas proceedings.”).

5 Here, the undersigned declines to recommend transfer of this matter to the Central District
6 of California. Petitioner previously filed a § 2255 motion in the sentencing court. Petitioner must
7 first obtain authorization from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to file a second or successive
8 motion. See 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h); United States v. Washington, 653 F.3d 1057, 1059 (9th Cir.
9 2011) (“[a] petitioner is generally limited to one motion under § 2255”). The Central District
10 record reflects that petitioner has filed three § 2255 motions. Therefore, the instant petition
11 should be dismissed rather than transferred.

12 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is
13 directed to assign a district judge to this case; and

14 Further, IT IS RECOMMENDED that:

15 1. Respondent’s motion to dismiss (ECF No. 8) be granted; and
16 2. The § 2241 petition be dismissed.

17 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
18 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within **twenty-one** days
19 after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
20 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties.³ Such a document should be captioned
21 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Any response to the
22 objections shall be served and filed within fourteen days after service of the objections. The
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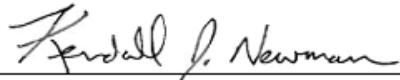
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³ A certificate of appealability is not required for an appeal from the denial of a petition for writ
28 of habeas corpus brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253; Harrison v.
Ollison, 519 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 2008).

1 parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to
2 appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

3 Dated: April 6, 2021

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5 KENDALL J. NEWMAN
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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